

Gabi Lombardo PhD

Profile

Gabi Lombardo is an expert in Science and Technology policies, Social Sciences and Humanities disciplines in science policy, along with the experience of developing and implementing Higher Education and research strategies in university and HE institutions. She has more than twenty years of experience at the interface of strategy, policy, research and business innovation working with some of world's leading centres for research, education and innovation. Her experience combines an ability to make connections across the university and beyond with the complex field of external and international stakeholders.

She has senior level experience in developing and implementing institutional strategies; including 'foresight', planning in elite international research funders, higher education institutions, and research associations. She is an expert evaluator for research funding and teaching excellence programmes in Europe, Asia, and Africa. Extensive record in the design and implementation of highly innovative academic projects, including public and private business investment in HE in the US, China and Europe. A proven track record of establishing multilateral institutional collaborations, creating new inter-institutional commercial relationships in education and research.

Co-founder of a consultancy in research development and director of the largest alliance for SSH in Europe contributing to on-going policies in research, innovation and education.

Highlights

- **European Alliance for Social Sciences and Humanities:** Founding Executive Director of the largest science policy organisation driven by research community interests in SSH
- **Science Europe:** Launched the strategy for the Scientific Committee of Social Sciences and the Scientific Committee for Humanities
- **European Research Council:** Managed evaluation process in the first phase of ERC implementation
- **London School of Economics:** Developed the first international strategy for the institution to achieve corporate objectives in research and education
- **Young Academy of Europe – Annual Award 2018** - "Acknowledgement of outstanding achievements by early and mid-career professionals to support and promote science and evidence-based policy in Europe."

Professional Experience

Director, European Alliance for Social Sciences and Humanities (EASSH) - 2016-present

The European Alliance for SSH is the largest science policy organisation in Europe with a specific approach to give voice in the science policy debate to an international scientific community. As Director, my key responsibilities are to deliver to the members an effective and outstanding strategic plan to achieve the Alliance aims and to contribute to the European science policy debate with views from the scientific community. The key tasks are:

- Strategic planning and foresight for EASSH and the broader academic community
Representing EASSH in key European Policy roundtable as invited stakeholder (ERA FORUM, EOSC, ESFRI, Reform of Research Evaluation)
- Writing and disseminating position papers, briefings and commentaries to support the mission and enhance the visibility of the Alliance.
- Direct interface with the European Commission Directorate-General for Research and Innovation, research councils across each of the 28 Member States and beyond
- Communicating in-depth knowledge and understanding of research funding policies internationally (main trends, drivers, mechanisms, alignments, international collaboration, etc.)

- Networking and fundraising with universities, associations, private foundations and business interests
- Representing EASSH at the interface with the European Parliament, European Commission, ministerial science meetings and international conferences, including key policy roundtables (eg ERA Forum, EOSC, Research Infrastructures etc.)
- Managing the secretariat and the support team of EASSH

GJ Foresight Ltd (UK): Founder and Partner

Designing and developing institutional strategic plans for senior management of:

- **Higher Education Sector:** selected high-profile European universities. Support from the design of Research development strategies, Institutional management and International institutional approach
- **HE property development:** QUAD; LaSalle
- **European foundations:** Agitos Foundation

International Expert, Evaluator and Reviewer

- **World Bank and Association of African Universities** for the Africa HE Centres of Excellence <https://www.worldbank.org/en/events/2018/09/06/call-for-proposals-the-africa-centers-of-excellence-for-development-impact-ace-impact>
- **European University Initiative - pilot evaluator** – December 2020-January 2021
- **Riksbanken Grant for Science Policy publication** (2020-2023)
- **World Bank Research Study Fund – 2020** – Principal Investigator, external expert
- **European Commission:** Evaluator and Reviewer for the Ethics Committee, Horizon 2020 (ID CT-EX2013D156489-102-1) and IMI2 Call 11 (<http://www.imi.europa.eu>)
- **IPCC 2022** Reviewer
- **European Commission:** Scientific Writer for EC High Level Experts and Working Groups (SAPEA project on [Food from the Ocean](#))
- **European Science Foundation**, College of Review Panel Members (Evaluator)
- **COST Peer review panel** (reviewer and external expert)
- **World Innovation Summit for Education – Qatar Foundation** (WISE) Evaluator and Reviewer for [Prize and Awards](#)
- **Media contributions** on science policy debates (eg. BBC Radio 4, Research professionals and THE, Guardian etc.)
- **Presentations** Delivered hundreds of talks for major conference in Science, including **European Commission, Facebook FOO Social Sciences Camp, AESIS Network, Marie Curie Alumni, Academia Europaea**
- **Polity Books:** Reviewer for international research policy session
- **CSA**, EASSH PI in *Promoting Ethics and Integrity in Non-Medical Research (PRO-RES)*," EU funded project grant agreement No. 788352.

*A list of most recent and most cited publications is at the end of the CV

Current Advisory Board Member

- July 2018- [ERIH PLUS](#) is an open index where SSH journals can be searched for by all interested parties.
- January 2017- [ECHIC](#) is a university-based initiative to organise European Research Institutes, Humanities Faculties and Centres for the Humanities.
- March 2016- [Net4Society](#) is the international network of SSH National Contact Points for EU programmes.

Previous professional experience

Science Europe - Senior Scientific Manager

2013-2016

Science Europe is an association of the 50 leading public research funding and performing organizations in the European Union Member States. Key responsibilities as Senior Scientific Manager include:

- Design and development of the strategic advice to the members from a disciplinary perspective
- Production of opinion papers and discussion papers for the Scientific Committee
- Organization of high-level meetings that bring together European researchers and policy makers on major research policy issues
- Facilitation of strategic discussions between Member States, research councils and performers and EC institutions for discussions around setting an agenda for funding research
- Support the establishment of the Scientific Advisory Committee as the interlocutor between the European research community and policy makers at the national, European and international level.

European Research Council – Science and Policy Manager, Panel Coordinator

2011-2013

The European Research Council is the premier European Commission-supported research funding agency dedicated to supporting individual researchers with the sole criterion being research excellence. Key responsibilities included:

- Manage panels for the evaluation of the ERC schemes in all scientific domains (PE5, LS1, SSH1,2,6)
- Support the design strategies of ERC international collaborations
- Coordinate with the Scientific Council members from Social Sciences disciplines the development of criteria to measure the Impact of ERC awards
- Outreach to the European academic community on ERC schemes funding schemes

London School of Economics and Political Sciences (LSE) (incl. secondment to ERC)

2000-2016

Team Leader, LSE Research Development Unit

2009-2016

Conceived, piloted and launched the LSE Research Development Unit (RDU). The RDU was tasked with managing the emergence of research interests across research centres and departments and matching these interests with tailor-made plans of national and international research funding opportunities. This new approach aimed to raise the quality of proposals and increase proposal success rates, and from 2008 to 2016 led to a growth in external research funding at LSE from £19M to £39M and a higher success rate from 20% to 35%. Key responsibilities included:

- Development of a strategic vision and staffing plan for the Unit
- Design of a comprehensive, strategic approach to increasing LSE external research funding by targeting funding opportunities across private and public opportunities
- Launch of a European network of specialist social science universities across Europe. Rising the Impact of Social Sciences and Economics (RISE) advocates for dedicated social science research programmes at both the national and the EU levels
- Coordination and implementation of interdepartmental initiatives to enhance LSE support for research development. Activities included: dialogues with research funders; policy roundtables; training for grant applications and interviews; mentoring; and knowledge transfer workshops
- Lead the development of individual large-scale project proposals for domestic and European research funding programmes, including collaborations with international research institutions in the EU, US, China and India. For example, the project Ethical Governance of Biological and Biomedical Research: Chinese - European Co-operation (<http://www.lse.ac.uk/researchAndExpertise/units/BIONET/>) was funded by the EC for €950K.

Deputy Head of Academic Partnerships (LSE)

2003 to 2009

Led the development of LSE's first international strategy. The strategy focused on establishing a global network of peer institutions as a platform to deliver highly innovative research and teaching projects. As

the sole full time member of staff tasked with implementing this strategy, my goal was to enhance LSE's worldwide profile and academic portfolio. Achievements in this role include:

- Established the first Academic Partnerships office at LSE. Developed all strategy papers for the office, which in 6 months grew to 5 people with a budget of £1,000,000 over three years.
- Set up an LSE subsidiary company (LSE Asia) in order to resource the LSE Asia strategy activities.
- Responsibility for the implementation of the LSE Asia strategy, including the delivery of the business plan for opening two LSE representative offices in Asia (Beijing and Delhi)
- Developed and implemented 12 double degree programs in 4 years with partners in 3 continents
- Served as Secretary of the Global Public Policy Network (GPPN) addressing 21st c challenges.
- Spearheaded the launch of the Executive Public Policy Training Programme. This program trains approximately 60 officials in the Chinese government every year, includes the GPPN partners, and has an annual investment of approximately £500,000.
- Developed, and managed, the LSE-Peking University Summer School. This programme (delivered in China) offers short courses for international undergraduates and postgraduates. As Coordinator of the programme from 2006-2010, grew the number of students from 90 to 400.
- Conducted academic research focused on working on socio-economic models for digital ecosystems. Supported through the EC project OPAALS Network of Excellence (€9M).

Education

- London School of Economics and Political Sciences, Ph.D. Economic History (Thesis: "Craft Guilds in Early Modern Sicily: A counterfactual argument" <http://etheses.lse.ac.uk/1595/> Keywords: knowledge transfer)
- University of Rome, La Sapienza: M.A. Philosophy and History, With Distinction
- Liceo Classico 'L. Ximenes', Trapani, Italy, Diploma, Classical Studies

Short Courses and Professional Development Training

- EC Research and Innovation: 3 Policy Modules: Research and Innovation Policy: Setting the Scene; Synergies between Scientific, Technological and Economic Specialization of EU Member States; From Idea to Market: The Innovation Cycle
- European School of Management: Lead your Team
- EC Proposals Evaluation
- IPR and Knowledge Transfer: Intro to Intellectual Property
- Horizon 2020: New Approach to SME Support
- EC FP7/Horizon 2020 Open Access

Languages

- Italian Native speaker
- English fluent
- French Level C2 (tests recorded by the EC)
- Spanish good reading and basic understanding

Most recent publications (Open Access) in S&T (2021-2022)

- G. Lombardo (2022) [The AI industry and Regulation: time for implementation?](#) in Ron Iphofen and Dónal O'Mathúna (2022), [Ethical Evidence and Policymaking: Interdisciplinary and International Research](#) – Bristol University
- G. Lombardo (2022) [Science Advisors and "Good Evidence": A Case Study](#) in Ron Iphofen and Dónal O'Mathúna, (2022) [Ethics, Integrity and Policy Making – The value of the case studies](#) Springer
- Humanities for policy/policy for humanities, UNESCO Humanities Report (accepted 2022-23);

- *Mission machine: changes in S&T funding allocation* (funded Riksbanken Foundation) – sent for peer review (2023)

Most cited publications

- European Alliance for SSH Position papers see <http://www.eassh.eu/position-papers>
- G. Lombardo, *The Social Sciences and Ethical Protocols and Standards for Research in Social Sciences Today*, in R. Iphofen (ed.) *Finding Common Ground. Consensus in Research Ethics across the Social Sciences*, 2017 Emerald Publishing Limited UK
- Science Europe, *The Need for 'Diamond Engagement' around Open Access to High Quality Research Output*, http://www.scienceeurope.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/07/SE_POS_SOC_OpenAccess_fin_web.pdf
- Science Europe, *Humanities and Social Sciences in Horizon 2020 Societal Challenges: Implementation and Monitoring*, November 2013 http://www.scienceeurope.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/05/SSH_Horizon2020_WEB_fin.pdf
- Co-author on *Beyond interoperability to digital ecosystems: regional innovation and socio-economic development led by SMEs* (<http://eprints.lse.ac.uk/20680/> 2009)